

In Shelby County beginning on the second Monday in February and continuing for six weeks; on the first Monday in November and continuing for seven weeks.

In Panola County beginning on the fourth Monday in March and continuing for five weeks; on the fourth Monday in September and continuing for five weeks.

SEC. 2. The fact that it is necessary to make the foregoing changes in the terms of court in the counties composing the Fourth Judicial District in the interest of efficiency and economy, creates an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each House be suspended, and said rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

[Note.—The enrolled bill shows that the foregoing Act passed the House, 110 yeas, 0 nays; passed the Senate, 29 yeas, 0 nays.]

Approved March 19, 1925.

Effective March 19, 1925.

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PROVIDING THAT OWNERS OF FREE SCHOOL LANDS  
HERETOFORE FORFEITED FOR NON PAYMENT  
OF INTEREST SHALL HAVE A RIGHT TO  
REPURCHASE SAME AT THE PRICE  
FIXED UPON A REVALUATION.

S. B. No. 303.]

CHAPTER 94.

An Act to provide that owners of public free school land, that has heretofore been forfeited, and remaining unsold, and that which may hereafter be forfeited for non-payment of interest accrued prior to November 1, 1925, shall have a right to repurchase same at the price fixed upon a revaluation thereof by the Commissioner of the General Land Office; providing that those desiring the repurchase shall pay an acreage fee for the expense of said revaluation and the remainder, if any, to be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Revenue; providing for protection of contractual obligations, forfeiture for nonpayment of interest, reservation of minerals; and declaring an emergency.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. In case any of the public free school lands that have been heretofore purchased from the State have been heretofore forfeited for non-payment of interest and have not been resold, and that which may hereafter be forfeited for the non-payment of interest that may have accrued prior to November 1, 1925, the owner of such land at the date of forfeiture shall have the right for a period of ninety days after the date in the notice of revaluation of his land as herein provided, to repurchase upon the terms and conditions prescribed in this Act, any and all of the land in whole tracts according to the forfeiture.

SEC. 2. When any of the land included in the preceding section has been forfeited for the non-payment of interest, the Commissioner of the General Land Office shall forward such list of land to the proper county clerk and include therein such land as may have heretofore been forfeited and remains unsold and within sixty days after the date the list was forwarded to the clerk the owner mentioned in the preceding section who may desire to repurchase such land in whole tracts according to the forfeiture shall advise the Commissioner of the General Land Office of such desire, and transmit with such advice one cent acre for each acre such person desires revalued. As soon as practicable, after the receipt of such advice by the commissioner he shall proceed to ascertain the reasonable value of such land and appraise the same accordingly and shall prepare duplicate notices of the appraisement and send one to each of the forfeiting owners and retain one for the General Land Office. If such forfeiting owner desires to repurchase the land at the appraised value placed thereon, he shall file his application therefor in the General Land Office within ninety days after the date in the notice of appraisement, together with one-fortieth of the appraised value and his obligations for the remaining portion of the purchase price, bearing the same rate of interest per annum as the forfeited purchase bore. The said one-fortieth cash payment shall conform to the requirements now prescribed for the first payment on all applications for the purchase of public free school lands. The one cent per acre received by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be used by him to defray the expenses incident to the revaluation and the remainder, if any, shall be by him deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the general revenue.

SEC. 3. If the owner at the date of forfeiture shall not exercise his right to repurchase, the commissioner shall again place the land on the market for sale as is now or may hereafter be provided for the sale of public free school lands. All repurchase under this Act shall be subject to the obligation of interest payments and forfeiture for non-payment of interest that is now provided by law for other purchasers of public free school lands. One-sixteenth of the oil and gas, and all other minerals, in the land included herein, whether known or unknown, are expressly reserved to the public free school fund, in the event the former sale was with mineral reservation.

SEC. 4. Whenever any land affected by this Act is repurchased under the rights of repurchase given herein, any lien, legal or equitable, and any valid contractual right in favor of any person or persons existing against, in and to said land or any part thereof at the time of forfeiture shall remain unimpaired and in full force and effect as if no such forfeiture had occurred.

SEC. 5. The fact that on account of several consecutive years of drouth in that portion of the State in which most of the public lands are located, and the further fact that on account of the demoralized condition of the cattle business, a great number of

purchasers of said lands have been financially unable to pay the interest due on said lands have for a number of years, and that said lands are therefore now subject to forfeiture for the non-payment of interest, and said forfeiture would work a great loss to the available school fund, creates an emergency and an imperative public necessity exists that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three separate days shall be suspended and that this bill be placed upon its third reading and final passage and take effect from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

[Note.—The enrolled bill shows that the foregoing Act passed the Senate, 26 yeas, 3 nays; passed the House, no vote given.]

Approved March 19, 1925.

Effective ninety (90) days after adjournment.

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### CREATING COMMISSION IN AID OF THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TEXAS.

S. B. No. 370.]

CHAPTER 95.

An Act to create a commission in aid of the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, regulating their powers and duties, appointment, duration of service, compensation, and providing for stenographer and making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. By and with the advice and consent of the Senate of Texas, the Governor of this State is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a commission to be composed of two attorneys at law, having those qualifications fixed by the laws and Constitution of this State for the judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, which commission shall be for the aid and assistance of said court in disposing of the business before it; and shall discharge such duties as may be assigned it by said court. Each commissioner shall receive the same salary, and paid at the same time, as do the judges of said court, and one stenographer for both of said commissioners shall be appointed by the court, who shall receive the same salary as that now paid the other stenographers of this court.

SEC. 2. The said commissioners shall hold office for the term of two years from the date of their appointment.

SEC. 3. All opinions of said commissioners shall be submitted to the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas and shall receive the approval of said court or a majority of them, before handed down as opinions of said court, and when so approved and handed down, shall have the same weight and legal effect as if originally prepared and handed down by said Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, and not otherwise.